

with the number of specimens of each species and the locality of collection. The list numbers 256 species, and is preceded by a brief itinerary of Col. Goss's various collecting trips to Mexico and Central America. The occasional typographical errors are doubtless due to the fact that the author was not permitted to revise the proof sheets, as already explained above in the case of his 'Review of Kansas Ornithology.'—J. A. A.

Cory's 'The Birds of Eastern North America. Water Birds. Part I.'¹—The tendency of the present day, in the production of popular bird books, seems to be to reduce the 'science of birds' to easy terms, in response to, and in stimulation of, the interest of late so generally manifested in out-of-door studies. The scope and character of these attempts to popularize bird study are as varied as their authors are numerous. In the present case we have a work that is not only elaborate in its pictorial details, simple in method of treatment, and comprehensive in scope, but also systematic and scientific in arrangement. It is constructed on much the same plan as the author's previous 'How to Know the Shore Birds' (1897), and 'How to Know the Ducks, Geese, and Swans' (1898), previously reviewed in this journal (Auk, XIV, 1897, 418, and XV, 1898, 278). 'That even he who runs may read,' a preliminary leaf facing the title page contains an 'Artificial Key to distinguish Land Birds and Water Birds,' which, in addition to the explanatory text, contains four cuts illustrating foot structure, and full-length figures of various species of Shore Birds, Gallinules, Rails, and Herons. A preface of two pages explains the use of the 'Keys,' following which is an elaborately illustrated 'Glossary' of terms used in describing the principal parts of a bird. In the 'Introduction' (pp. 3-7) the structure of the wing, tail, feet and bill are shown by aid of numerous cuts, and the technical terms used in describing these parts are carefully defined. (We must here note the strange lapsus of 'rectices' for rectrices occurring repeatedly on p. 4.) There are also diagrams and directions 'How to measure a Bird' (pp. 8, 9). Then follows an 'Index Key to Families' of the Water Birds, with 16 cuts, illustrating the structure of the foot in the various groups. From this general introductory matter we pass to the 'Key to Families' (including subfamilies), illustrated by cuts of bills and feet, heads, and small full-length figures, the key being based primarily on the palmation, position and number of the toes, the form and structure of the bill, and general size (pp. 11-24). The text is brief, the cuts occupying the greater part of the

¹The Birds | of | Eastern North America | known to occur East of the
Ninetieth Meridian | — | Water Birds | — | Part I | — | Key to the Families
and Species | — | By | Charles B. Cory | . . . [= 10 lines, titles and list of the
author's principal works] | — | Special Edition printed for the | Field Colum-
bian Museum, Chicago, Ill. | —1899—Sm. 4to, 1 l., pp. i-ix 1-142, profusely
illustrated with halftone and line text cuts.

twelve pages devoted to the 'Key to Families,' which follow each other in arbitrary sequence. Then follows the 'Key to the Species' (pp. 25-130), arranged in systematic order from the Grebes to the Oystercatchers. Besides the numerous cuts of structural parts, as bill, feet, tail, etc., each species is figured, either full length or half length, to show the most characteristic parts, the illustrations occupying far more space than the text. This is limited to brief diagnoses, in which the distinctive features are emphasized by use of special type. In the case of the Ducks, head figures are given of both sexes of each species; and throughout figures are used to the fullest extent to which they could apparently be of use to the student.

With page 131 begins what will be apparently Part II of the work—a formal description of the Water Birds of Eastern North America, giving brief, nontechnical descriptions of each species in its various plumages, with an account of its geographical range, and nest and eggs, followed by a few lines, in larger type, devoted to the life history of the species. Though not so stated, pp. 131-135 are apparently given as a sample of the main text that is to follow.

The illustrations, by Mr. Edward Knobel, are well adapted to their purpose, though not always artistic. The small line drawings of bills and feet, etc., are very expressive, while the larger wash drawings of heads and full-length figures are in general graceful and effective, except where too much reduced in reproduction. The same figures are repeatedly used in different connections, some of the wash drawings, greatly reduced for use in the keys, appearing again on a larger scale in the body of the work.

With the analytical keys, based largely on size, and the prodigality of illustrations throughout the work, it would seem that the difficulty of identifying our Water Birds is reduced to its simplest terms, and that the author's hope that by the aid here furnished "the novice will be able to identify accurately any of our birds" is not too optimistic.—J. A. A.

Knobel's 'Field Key to the Land Birds.'¹—This is another 'field book,' the purpose of which is "to enable any lover of birds, without previous knowledge or study of the subject, to identify readily any of our wild birds." The 'Field Key' consists of nine colored plates, 3¼ by 6 inches in size, on which about 150 species of the land birds of the northeastern United States are grouped *according to size*, the number and figures to a plate averaging about seventeen. The figures are fairly well drawn, and the size is not too small to permit the advantageous use of colors. In the present case, however, we cannot say the color results

¹ Field Key | to the | Land Bird | — | Illustrated | — | By | Edward Knobel
| Boston | Bradlee Whidden | 1899 — 12mo, 3 ll., pp. 1-55, pll. i-ix, colored,
and various text cuts. \$1.75.